

THE
DECLARATION
OF THE
Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
AND
COMMONS

Assembled at *WESTMINSTER*;
Presented to the KING and QUEEN,

By the Right Honourable the
MARQUESS of HALLIFAX,
SPEAKER to the HOUSE of LORDS.

WITH
HIS MAJESTIES

Most Gracious ANSWER thereunto.

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Die Martis, 12^o Februarii, 168⁹.

THE
DECLARATION
OF THE
Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
AND
COMMONS Assembled at *Westminster*.



HEREAS the late King *James* the Second, by the Assistance of divers Evil Counsellors, Judges, and Ministers Employ'd by Him, did endeavour to Subvert and Extirpate the Protestant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom;

By Assuming and Exercising a Power of Dispensing with, and Suspending of Laws, and the Execution of Laws, without Consent of Parliament.

By Committing and Prosecuting divers Worthy Prelates, for humbly Petitioning to be Excused from concurring to the said assumed Power.

By issuing, and causing to be Executed, a Commission under the Great Seal, for erecting a Court called, *The Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes*.

By Levying Money for and to the Use of the Crown, by pretence of Prerogative, for other time, and in other manner, than the same was granted by Parliament.

By raising and keeping a standing Army within this Kingdom in time of Peace, without Consent of Parliament; and Quartering Soldiers contrary to Law.

By causing several Good Subjects, being Protestants, to be Disarmed at the same time, when Papists were both Armed and Employed contrary to Law.

By violating the Freedom of Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

By Prosecutions in the Court of *Kings-Bench* for Matters and Causes cognizable only in *Parliament*; and by divers other Arbitrary and Illegal Courses.

And whereas of late years, Partial, Corrupt, and Unqualified Persons, have been returned and served on Juries in Trials, and particularly divers Jurors in Trials for High-Treason, which were not Freeholders;

And Excessive Bail hath been required of persons committed in Criminal Cases, to elude the benefit of the Laws made for the Liberty of the Subjects.

And Excessive Fines have been imposed.

And Illegal and Cruel Punishments inflicted.

And several Grants and Promises made of Fines and Forfeitures before any Conviction or Judgment against the persons upon whom the same were to be levied.

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Laws and Statutes, and Freedom of this Realm.

And whereas the said late King *James* the Second, having Abdicated the Government, and the Throne being thereby vacant,

His Highness the Prince of *Orange* (whom it hath pleased Almighty God to make the Glorious Instrument of Delivering this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power) did (by the Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Tem-

poral, and divers principal Persons of the Commons) cause Letters to be written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, being Protestants, and other Letters to the several Counties, Cities, Universities, Burroughs, and Cinque-Ports, for the Chusing of such Persons to represent them, as were of Right to be sent to Parliament, to Meet and Sit at *Westminster* upon the 22d day of *January* in this year 1683, in order to such an Establishment, as that their Religion, Laws and Liberties, might not again be in danger of being Subverted: Upon which Letters Elections having been accordingly made;

And thereupon the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, pursuant to their respective Letters and Elections, being now Assembled in a Full and Free Representative of this Nation, taking into their most serious Consideration the best Means for attaining the Ends aforesaid, do in the first place (as their Ancestors in like Case have usually done) for the Vindicating and Asserting their Ancient Rights and Liberties, Declare,

That the pretended Power of Suspending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws, by Regal Authority, without Consent of Parliament, is Illegal.

That the pretended Power of Dispensing with Laws, or the Execution of Laws, by Regal Authority, as it hath been assumed and exercised of late, is Illegal.

That the Commission for erecting the late *Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes*, and all other Commissions and Courts of the like nature, are Illegal and Pernicious.

That levying of Money for or to the Use of the Crown, by pretence of Prerogative, without Grant of Parliament, for longer time, or in other manner, than the same is or shall be granted, is Illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subjects to Petition the King, and all Commitments and Prosecutions for such Petitioning, are Illegal.

That the raising or keeping a standing Army within the Kingdom in time of Peace, unless it be with Consent of Parliament, is against Law.

That the Subjects which are Protestants may have Arms for their Defence suitable to their Condition, and as allowed by Law.

That Election of Members of Parliament ought to be free.

That the Freedom of Speech, and Debates or Proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament.

That Excessive Bail ought not to be required, nor Excessive Fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual Punishments inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly empannell'd and return'd, and Jurors which pass upon Men in Trials for High-Treason ought to be Freeholders.

That all Grants and Promises of Fines and Forfeitures of particular persons before Conviction, are Illegal and Void.

And that for redress of all Grievances, and for the amending, strengthening and preserving of the Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently

And they do claim, demand, and insist upon all and singular the Premises, as their undoubted Rights and Liberties; and that no Declarations, Judgments, Doings, or Proceedings, to the prejudice of the People in any of the said Premises, ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into Consequence or Example.

To which Demand of their Rights they are particularly encouraged by the Declaration of His Highness the Prince of *Orange*, as being the only means for obtaining a full redress and remedy therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence, that his said Highness the Prince of *Orange* will perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by Him, and will still pre-

preserve them from the violation of their Rights, which they have here asserted, and from all other Attempts upon their Religion, Rights, and Liberties ;

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons assembled at *Westminster* do resolve,

That *William* and *Mary* Prince and Princess of *Orange* be, and be declared, King and Queen of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, to hold the Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to Them the said Prince and Princess, during their Lives, and the Life of the Survivor of them ; And that the sole and full Exercise of the Regal Power be only in, and executed by, the said Prince of *Orange*, in the Names of the said Prince and Princess during their joint Lives ; and after their Deceases, the said Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions to be to the Heirs of the Body of the said Princess ; and for default of such Issue, to the Princess *Ann* of *Denmark*, and the Heirs of Her Body ; and for default of such Issue, to the Heirs of the Body of the said Prince of *Orange*.

And the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do pray the said Prince and Princess of *Orange* to accept the same accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mentioned be taken by all persons of whom the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy might be required by Law, instead of them ; and that the said Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy be Abrogated.

I A. B. do sincerely promise and swear, That I will be faithful, and bear true Allegiance to Their Majesties King WILLIAM and Queen MARY.

So help me God.

I A. B. do swear, That I do from my heart Abhor, Detest, and Abjure, as Impious and Heretical, this Damnable Doctrine and Position, That Princes Excommunicated or Deprived by the Pope, or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be Deposed or Murdered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever. And I do declare, That no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State, or Potentate, hath, or ought to have, any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Pre-eminence, or Authority Ecclesiastical or Spiritual, within this Realm.

So help me God.

Jo. Browne, Cleric' Parl.

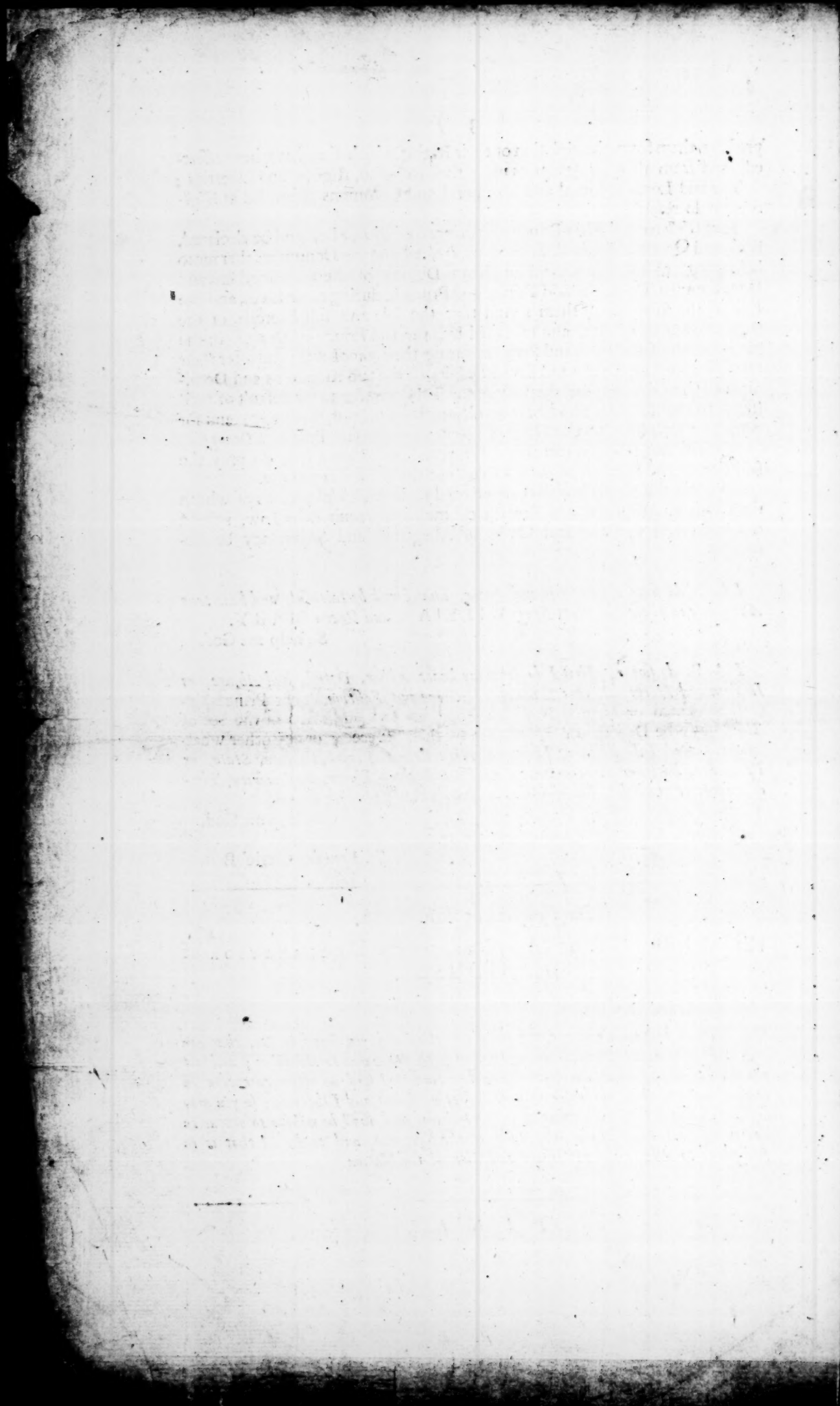
Die Veneris 15 Feb. 1688.

His Majesties GRACIOUS ANSWER, to the DECLARATION of Both HOUSES.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THis is certainly the greatest proof of the Trust you have in Us, that can be given, which is the thing that maketh Us value it the more ; and We thankfully Accept what you have Offered. And as I had no other Intention in coming hither, than to preserve your Religion, Laws and Liberties ; so you may be sure, That I shall endeavour to support them, and shall be willing to concur in any thing that shall be for the Good of the Kingdom, and to do all that is in My power to Advance the Welfare and Glory of the Nation.

F I N I S.




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*Die Veneris 15<sup>o</sup> Februarii 1688.*

**O**Rdered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Assembled at *Westminster*, That His Majesties Gracious Answer to the Declaration of Both Houses, and the Declaration, be forthwith Printed and Published; And that His Majesties Gracious Answer this Day be added to the Engrossed Declaration in Parchment, to be Enrolled in Parliament and Chancery.

*Jo. Browne, Cleric<sup>s</sup>*  
*Parliamentorum.*

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